

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that modulates ~~JNK3~~ excitotoxicity, the method comprising[[:]]

(a) incubating a cell that can exhibit excitotoxicity with a compound that modulates JNK3 expression under conditions and for a time sufficient for the cell to ~~express~~ exhibit excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound; and

~~b) incubating a control cell for the same time and under the same conditions in the absence of the compound;~~

~~e)(b) measuring a level of excitotoxicity in the cell after incubating step (a) in the presence of the compound;~~

wherein a difference in the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (b) compared to the level of excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound modulates excitotoxicity.

~~d) measuring excitotoxicity in the control cell; and~~

~~e) comparing the amount of excitotoxicity in the presence and absence of the compound, wherein a difference in the level of excitotoxicity indicates that the compound modulates excitotoxicity.~~

64. (Currently amended) A method of claim 63, 70, 71, or 72, wherein the compound decreases excitotoxicity.

65. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 63, 70, 71, or 72~~any one of the claims 60 to 64~~, wherein the compound is a soluble peptide.

66. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 63, 70, 71, or 72~~any one of the claims 60 to 64~~, wherein the compound is a phosphopeptide.

67. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 63, 70, 71, or 72~~any one of the claims 60 to 64~~, wherein the compound is a peptidomimetic.

68. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 63, 70, 71, or 72~~any one of the claims 60 to 64~~, wherein the compound is a small organic molecule.

69. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 63, 70, 71, or 72~~any one of the claims 60 to 64~~, wherein the compound is an inorganic molecule.

70. (New) A method of identifying a compound that modulates excitotoxicity, the method comprising

(a) incubating a cell that can exhibit excitotoxicity with a compound that modulates JNK3 activity under conditions and for a time sufficient for the cell to exhibit excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound; and

(b) measuring a level of excitotoxicity in the cell after incubating step (a),

wherein a difference in the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (b) compared to the level of excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound modulates excitotoxicity.

71. (New) A method of identifying a compound that modulates excitotoxicity, the method comprising

(a) administering a compound that modulates JNK3 expression to an animal model of an excitotoxic disorder; and

(b) measuring a level of excitotoxicity in the animal,
wherein a difference in the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (b) compared to the level of excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound modulates excitotoxicity.

72. (New) A method of identifying a compound that modulates excitotoxicity, the method comprising:

(a) administering a compound that modulates JNK3 activity to an animal model of an excitotoxic disorder; and

(b) measuring a level of excitotoxicity in the animal,
wherein a difference in the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (b) compared to the level of excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound indicates that the compound modulates excitotoxicity.

73. (New) The method of claim 63, 70, 71, or 72, wherein the method further comprises
(i) incubating a control cell that can exhibit excitotoxicity in the absence of the compound under conditions and for a time sufficient for the cell to exhibit excitotoxicity;

(ii) measuring excitotoxicity in the cell after said incubating step (i); and

(iii) comparing the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (b) with the level of excitotoxicity measured in step (ii).

74. (New) The method of claim 63 or 71, wherein the compound reduces JNK3 expression.

75. (New) The method of claim 70 or 72, wherein the compound reduces JNK3 activity.

76. (New) The method of claim 70 or 72, wherein the JNK3 activity is JNK3 substrate binding.

77. (New) The method according to claim 63 or 70, wherein the method further comprises identifying the compound that modulates JNK3 expression prior to incubating step (a).

78. (New) The method according to claim 70 or 72, wherein the method further comprises identifying the compound that modulates JNK3 activity prior to incubating step (a).